

Nomenclatural changes in the tribe Empoascini of the subfamily Typhlocybinae (Hemiptera, Cicadellidae)

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Abstract

One genus and species are synonymized in the tribe Empoascini of the subfamily Typhlocybinae. *Bhatasca* Dworakowska, 1995 is a junior synonym of *Alebrasca* Hayashi & Okada, 1994, *Bhatasca rectangulata* Qin & Zhang, 2011 is a junior synonym of *Alebrasca actinidia* Hayashi & Okada, 1994. Furthermore, *Bhatasca expansa* is (necessarily) transferred to the genus *Alebrasca*.

Keywords

Homoptera, Auchenorrhyncha, taxonomy, leafhopper, synonym, China

Introduction

Empoascini is a large tribe in the leafhopper subfamily Typhlocybinae, comprising more than 1000 species and nearly 70 genera worldwide. However, the status of some established genera and species in this tribe remains dubious or misleading and needs further revision. In this study, one genus and one species are recognized as junior synonyms and we also propose one new combination in Empoascini. The purpose of the present paper is to clarify the taxonomy of the tribe.

Nomenclatural changes and notes

Family Cicadellidae

Subfamily Typhlocybinae

Tribe Empoascini

Alebrasca Hayashi & Okada, 1994

<http://species-id.net/wiki/Alebrasca>

Alebrasca Hayashi & Okada, 1994: 267. Type species: *Alebrasca actinidia* Hayashi & Okada, 1994, by original designation.

Bhatasca Dworakowska, 1995: 143. Type species: *Bhatasca expansa* Dworakowska, 1995, by original designation. **syn. n.**

Remarks. Dworakowska (1995) established the genus *Bhatasca* based on the type species *B. expansa* Dworakowska, 1995 from Tsy-feng in Taiwan, and Qin et al. (2011) described *B. rectangulata* based on the generic diagnosis provided by Dworakowska (1995). Until now, only two species were included in the genus, widely distributed in mainland China (Hunan, Henan, Gansu, Sichuan, Fujian, Zhejiang, Jiangxi) and Taiwan. Based on investigation of the descriptions and illustrations by Hayashi and Okada (1994) and Dworakowska (1995) and *Bhatasca* material deposited in the Entomological Museum, Northwest A&F University (NWAUFU), we recognize the genus *Bhatasca* Dworakowska is a junior synonym of *Alebrasca* Hayashi & Okada.

Alebrasca actinidia Hayashi & Okada, 1994

http://species-id.net/wiki/Alebrasca_actinidia

Alebrasca actinidia Hayashi & Okada, 1994: 269.

Bhatasca rectangulata Qin & Zhang, 2011: 54. **syn. n.**

Remarks. After checking the type specimens of *Bhatasca rectangulata*, we found the characters of wing, basal abdominal apodemes and male genitalia described by Qin et al. (2011) in mainland China are the same as those of the species described by Hayashi and Okada (1994). Furthermore, the distribution of *Bhatasca rectangulata* has nearly same latitude as the type locality of *Alebrasca actinidia* Hayashi & Okada in Japan (central Honshu). Therefore, synonymy of the two species is confirmed here.

***Alebrasca expansa* (Dworakowska, 1995), comb. n.**

http://species-id.net/wiki/Alebrasca_expansa

Bhatasca expansa Dworakowska, 1995: 145.

Remarks. Dworakowska (1995) described this species in *Bhatasca* from Taiwan. We here transfer it to *Alebrasca* mainly based on the characters of the head, the venation of fore- and hindwing, the basal abdominal apodemes and especially the configuration of the male genitalia.

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